



**For immediate release**

May 18, 2011

Contact: Scott Baker (573) 355-7758 or [sbaker@feedingmissouri.org](mailto:sbaker@feedingmissouri.org)

## **Food Pantry Tax Credit Set to Expire**

*Legislative inaction means end to important tool in fight against hunger*

**Columbia, Mo.** – When the Missouri legislature failed to pass an overhaul of the state’s tax credit system, it also took away an important tool in the fight against Missouri’s hunger problem. The Food Pantry Tax Credit is set to expire this year. Language to extend and expand the program was contained in both House and Senate versions of the tax credit overhaul bill. Now the tax credit will expire at the end of August.

This comes at a time of significant challenge for Missouri’s families who are trying to put food on the table. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Missouri is 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation in food insecurity and 6<sup>th</sup> in very low food security. Over 900,000 Missourians are food insecure.

Missouri’s food banks and pantries leveraged the Food Pantry Tax Credit into hundreds of thousands of pounds of food for hungry Missourians. Missouri’s food banks are able to acquire up to 20 pounds of food for a dollar. Last year, nearly \$1 million worth of credits were claimed toward the Food Pantry Tax Credit. Proposed changes would have enhanced usage of the credit and made more food available.

“Hunger continues to be a very real problem for a significant number of Missourians,” said Scott Baker, state director of the Missouri Food Bank Association. “Now is not the time to weaken the safety net that is in place to help those who are struggling. Unfortunately, that’s where we find ourselves until the legislature takes action on this important tax credit that plays a critical role in helping feed people.”

Missouri ranks fifth in the nation when it comes to the percentage of food insecure children. An average of 318,588 Missouri children under the age of 18 was food insecure between 2006 and 2008.

All Food Pantry Tax Credit claimants must make contributions to an eligible food pantry on or before August 28, 2011. All claimants must submit claims by September 1, 2012. More information can be found at the Missouri Department of Revenue’s website: <http://dor.mo.gov/taxcredit/ftp.php>

###

### **About the Missouri Food Bank Association**

The MFBA is a coalition of six Feeding America food banks in Missouri serving every county in the state. Last year, Missouri’s food banks distributed over 88 million pounds of food to hungry Missourians through a network of over 1,500 food pantries, shelters, and kitchens.